United Nations A/HRC/28/NGO/7

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 February 2015

English only

Human Rights Council
Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[11 February 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-02843 (E)
1502843

Please recycle

Bahrain's Human Rights Situation

The Bahraini authorities have utilized an array of suppressive practices to curtail freedoms and restrict the activities of many NGOS and activists. There have been clear infringements against signed and ratified international agreements and lack of execution of the Bahrain Independent Commission Inquiry (BICI) and UN Human Right's Council Universal Periodic Review recommendations.

In the year 2014 human rights situation in Bahrain has been particularly distressing, with the situation as grave as it was during BICI investigations. Not one person has been sentenced for the numerous extrajudicial killings and torture that occurred over the last few years. Pushing human rights organizations to seek courts in France and UK to submit a case against son of the King and torture-implicated royal, Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Human rights activists have continued unrelentingly to inform the international community, from communications with human rights delegations and international human rights organizations to participation in international human rights conferences.

The Bahraini authorities have exploited the judiciary in Bahrain to punish and silence human rights activists like Nabeel Rajab and Maryam Alkhowaja whom have been casually targeted and imprisoned, and issuing long and harsh sentences arbitrarily, like life imprisonment for many and execution for four activists.

In 2012, 31 Bahraini citizens, from opposition members to activists, were stripped of their Bahraini citizenship. In 2014, 21 prisoners were added to the revocation-decision list. Just a few weeks ago, 72 Bahrainis, from an array of disciplines, were stripped of their citizenship, with the vast majority of those stripped of their nationality now stateless.

Opposition figures have been particularly targeted, with the secretary general of al Wefaq, Sheikh Ali Salman, arrested at the end of 2014, chairman of al Wefaq's consultative council, Jameel Kadhim, facing imprisonment, and deputy secretary general of al Wefaq, Khalil Marzooq, was trailed.

Since the last year, Bahraini security forces have killed 12 Bahrainis and no one has been held accountable.

Building on the above research regarding Bahrain's human rights situation, and by monitoring cases of violations committed during the 2014, we suggests the following recommendations:

1) For the Bahraini authorities to implement the recommendations that they accepted in 2011 and 2012, which includes all of the recommendations presented in the Bahrain Independent Commission Inquiry (BICI). BICI shed light on an array of violations, which have been documented and confirmed, which were carried out by Bahrain's security apparatus during a period of no more than two months.

2) For the Bahraini authorities to implement the accepted 158 out of the 176 recommendations presented by the Universal Period Review carried out by the UN Human Rights Council. The Bahraini authorities cannot interpret the recommendations to a degree that make it unreflective of the real legal objectives.

3) For the Bahraini authorities to allow all UN Special Rapporteurs entrance in Bahrain to carry out their specific obligations. The performance of their duties have been assigned to them by the mandates of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the recommendations presented by the Universal Periodic Review in May 2012.

4) Allocate a time within the near future for the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit Bahrain and carry out his obligations designated to him by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to openly present his findings.

5) For the Bahraini authorities to cease all repressive practices and violations that are carried out against those exercising freedom of opinion and peaceful protesting, which are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights .

6) Release prisoners imprisoned because of freedom of opinion without delay, regardless of their political, religious or ideological affiliations. Also, cease all unfair trials that lack the required balanced judicial conditions. Further, reconsider the convictions that did not properly observe detainees rights and carried out through unfair trials.

7) Stop the execution sentences against activists, and release death row prisoner Ali al-Taweel from solitary confinement, who has remained there for the last 3 months.

8) For the Bahraini authorities to dismiss torturers and human rights violators, to edge towards transitional justice.

9) Return those that have been dismissed from their work because of the political events that unfolded in the country, with full and retrospective compensations given to them.

10) Dismiss the foreign military entities in the country, to protect the sovereignty of the country and preserve civil and human rights from further violations.

11) Cease political naturalization, which has posed significant negative consequences on economical and social facets. Causing a strain on the employment opportunities, health services, benefits service, housing allocation, and school places, with the majority of opportunities and benefits handed directly and discriminately to the newly naturalized.